



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
08.05.2013 Bulletin 2013/19

(51) Int Cl.:
G02C 11/04 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **11187752.8**

(22) Date of filing: **03.11.2011**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR
Designated Extension States:
BA ME

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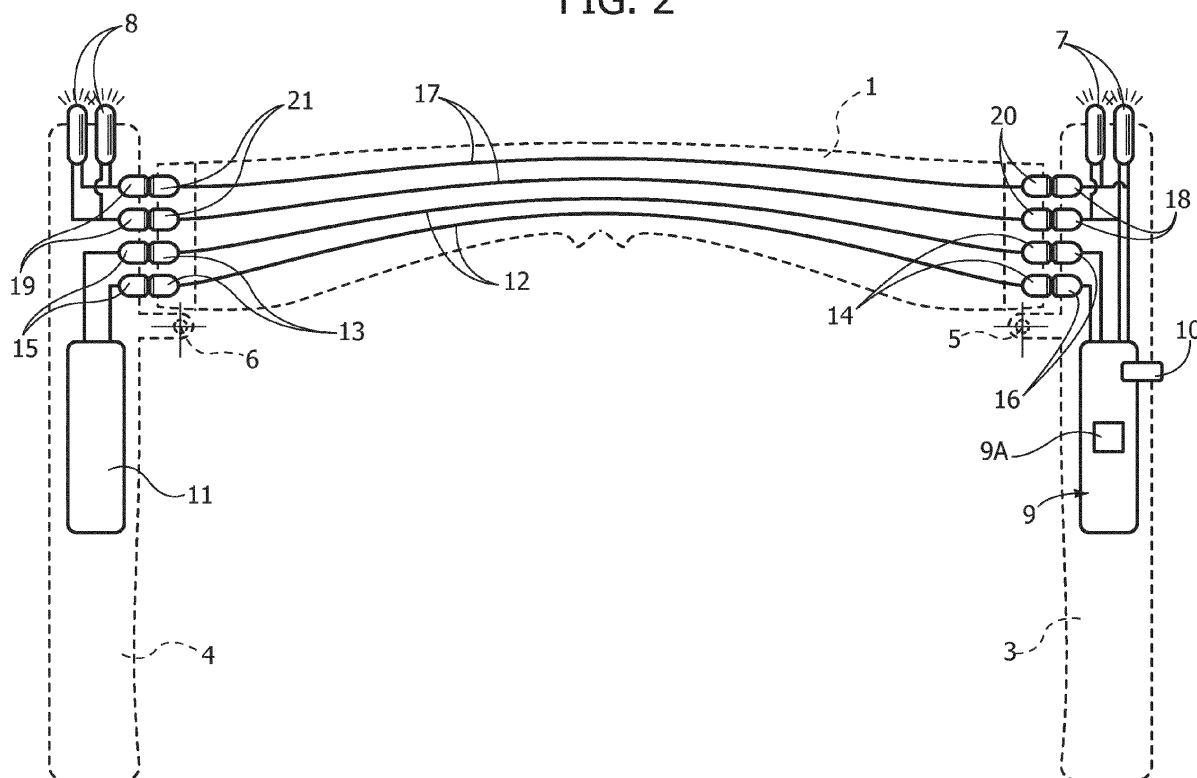
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(54) **Eyeglasses**

(57) Eyeglasses, in particular for reading, including integrated lighting means (7, 8) and corresponding means for activation and de-activation (9) of the lighting means (7, 8), which comprise a tilt sensor (9A) provided

for reducing automatically the intensity of the light emitted by the lighting means (7, 8) when, in use, the eyeglasses are moved angularly upwards with respect to a reference position.

FIG. 2



Description

Field of the invention

[0001] The present invention relates in general to eyeglasses, in particular of the type with graduated lenses for reading.

State of the prior art

[0002] There have already been proposed, for example in the documents Nos. US-7,699,486, US-2007/0013865, and US-2011/013135, eyeglasses of this type provided with integrated lighting means for emitting light, and hence enabling reading, even in poorly illuminated environments, such as theatres, aeroplanes, cinemas, meeting rooms, or similar contexts.

[0003] In these known solutions, activation and de-activation of the lighting means integrated in the eyeglasses are normally manual; i.e., they require operation of one or two switches, in the case where independent lighting means are provided for each arm or for each side of the front. There follows the problem that, in the case where the user, when he is reading with the lighting means activated, lifts his head towards a person to whom he is speaking, the latter gets dazzled, with consequent discomfort.

[0004] In an attempt to solve this problem, in the Japanese patent document No. JP-9017204 it has been proposed to equip the lighting means integrated in the eyeglasses with an anti-dazzle system designed to cause automatic de-activation thereof in certain conditions. This document, however, does not describe or suggest any technical solution able to implement said function of automatic switching-off in so far as it is limited simply to proposing the idea without explaining how it can be implemented.

Summary of the invention

[0005] The object of the present invention is hence to provide a solution that is simple, functional, and effective for translating into practice the idea of automatic switching-off of the lighting means with the aim of preventing the situations of dazzling referred to above.

[0006] According to the invention, the above object is achieved thanks to the fact that the eyeglasses further comprise control means of the tilt-sensor type configured for varying automatically the intensity of the light emitted by the aforesaid lighting means when, in use, the eyeglasses are moved angularly upwards with respect to a reference angular position.

[0007] Thanks to this idea of solution, it is hence possible to manage automatically, as a function of the position in space of the eyeglasses worn by the user, a progressive fading of the light emitted by the lighting means, which conveniently proceeds as far as an angular position of complete switching-off or of minimum light inten-

sity.

[0008] The reference angular position and the angular position of switching-off or of minimum intensity can advantageously be set via a manual selector, and the angular range between said positions may be, for example, in the region of 30° - 40° or more.

[0009] According to the preferred embodiment of the invention, the lighting means comprise a pair of LEDs (light-emitting diodes), which surface in front of the end where each arm is articulated to the front and are set on top of one another so as to generate an appreciably wide lighting range.

Brief description of the drawings

[0010] The invention will now be described in detail with reference to the annexed drawings, which are provided purely by way of non-limiting example, and in which:

- Figure 1 is a perspective view that represents schematically one embodiment of the eyeglasses according to the invention; and
- Figure 2 is a schematic plan view that shows the electrical diagram of the lighting circuit and of the corresponding control means.

Detailed description of the invention

[0011] It should be noted that the aesthetic configuration of the eyeglasses exemplified in Figure 1 is not to be considered as in any way limiting, but should be understood simply as representing one of the multiple embodiments of eyeglasses designed to incorporate the peculiar characteristics of the invention.

[0012] The eyeglasses represented in the example comprise, in a way in itself generally known, a front 1 bearing a pair of lenses 2, more in particular of the graduated reading type, and a pair of arms 3, 4 articulated to the sides of the front via respective hinges, designated as a whole by 5 and 6 in Figure 2. The arms 3, 4 are able to turn between the extended position of use represented in the figures, in which they extend substantially in a direction orthogonal to the front 1, and a folded position, in which they are laid against the front.

[0013] According to the invention, the eyeglasses incorporate a front lighting system to enable the user to read in conditions of poor lighting. Said lighting system comprises two pairs of LEDs (light-emitting diodes) surfacing from the ends where the arms 3, 4 are articulated to the front 1. The LEDs 7, 8 of each pair are arranged and oriented so as to generate a relatively wide light beam: as is illustrated in Figure 1 (and unlike the scheme of Figure 2) they are conveniently arranged in a configuration where they are set on top of one another.

[0014] The two pairs of LEDs 7, 8 are conveniently housed within respective recesses having a conical or curved shape, treated so as to present a highly reflecting

surface in order to maximize light emission.

[0015] With reference to Figure 2 the electrical circuit for activation and de-activation of the LEDs 7, 8 will now be described in detail.

[0016] Incorporated inside the arm 3 is an electronic card designated as a whole by 9, operatively associated to which is a manual selector 10, the functions of which will be described in greater detail in what follows. Incorporated inside the other arm 4 is a supply battery 11, conveniently of the lithium-polymer rechargeable type. The battery 11, which is accessible for being recharged through an openable hatch (not illustrated) present on the arm 4, is electrically connected to the electronic card 9 via first conductors 12 incorporated along the front 1 and coming under stationary contacts 13, 14 surfacing at the ends of the front 1. The stationary contacts 13, 14 are designed to co-operate with respective mobile contacts 15, 16 surfacing laterally from the arms 4, 3 in the proximity of the respective articulation hinges 6, 5.

[0017] The electronic card 9 is directly connected to the LEDs 7 carried by the arm 3, which are in turn connected to the LEDs 8 carried by the arm 4 through second conductors 17, which are likewise incorporated along the front 1, and via mobile contacts 18, 19 surfacing laterally from the arms 3, 4 in the proximity of the mobile contacts 16, 15. Said mobile contacts 16, 15 co-operate with respective stationary contacts 20, 21 surfacing from the ends of the front 1 in the proximity of the stationary contacts 14, 13.

[0018] With the arrangement described above, the electrical connection between the stationary contacts 14, 20 and the mobile contacts 16, 18 on the one hand, and between the stationary contacts 13, 21 and the mobile contacts 15, 19 on the other is obtained when the arms 3, 4 are set in the extended condition of use of the eyeglasses represented in the drawings, whereas said connection is interrupted when the arms 3, 4 are closed against the front 1.

[0019] The electronic card 9, which can be activated and de-activated manually via the selector 10 for controlling voluntary switching-on and switching-off of the LEDs 7, 8, incorporates an anti-dazzle device 9A provided for varying automatically the intensity of the light emitted when, in use, the eyeglasses are moved angularly upwards with respect to a reference angular position. Said automatic variation of intensity can consist in an instantaneous switching-off or else, more conveniently, in a fading from a condition of maximum lighting to a condition of minimum lighting or even of total switching-off of the LEDs 7 and 8.

[0020] According to the invention, said anti-dazzle device 9A is of an electronic type and, more in particular, is constituted by a digital tilt sensor, for example of the type produced and marketed by OSRAM under the trade name SFH 7710, or else of the type marketed by OMRON Electronic Components under the trade name D6B or else D6BN.

[0021] The reference angular position corresponding

to the condition of maximum light intensity and the angular position of switching-off or else of minimum light intensity generated by the LEDs 7, 8 can be both set, for example, via one and the same selector 10. The reference angular position will typically correspond to the inclination assumed by the eyeglasses when the user who wears them is reading, whereas the angular position of switching-off or of minimum intensity will correspond to the inclination assumed by the eyeglasses when the user turns his head upwards, for example to look at a person to whom he is speaking. The angular range of variation between the two positions may be, for example, in the region of 30° - 40° or more.

[0022] The selector 10 may also be used for varying manually the light intensity of the LEDs 7, 8: in this case, in order to be able to perform all the functions described, said selector 10 may be able to turn between a position of switching-off and a position of switching-on of the control card 9, which can be displaced by being pressed for setting and selecting the reference angular position and the angular position of switching-off or of reduced intensity, and can be translated along the arm 3 for regulating manually said light intensity. Obviously, said functions may be activated via commands of a different type, even ones distinct and separate from one another.

[0023] The electronic card 9 can also incorporate a possible voice-recognition sensor to enable the user to identify the eyeglasses in the most immediate way in the case where they happen to get mislaid.

[0024] Of course, the details of construction and the embodiments may vary widely with respect to what has been described and illustrated herein, without thereby departing from the scope of the present invention as defined in the ensuing claims.

Claims

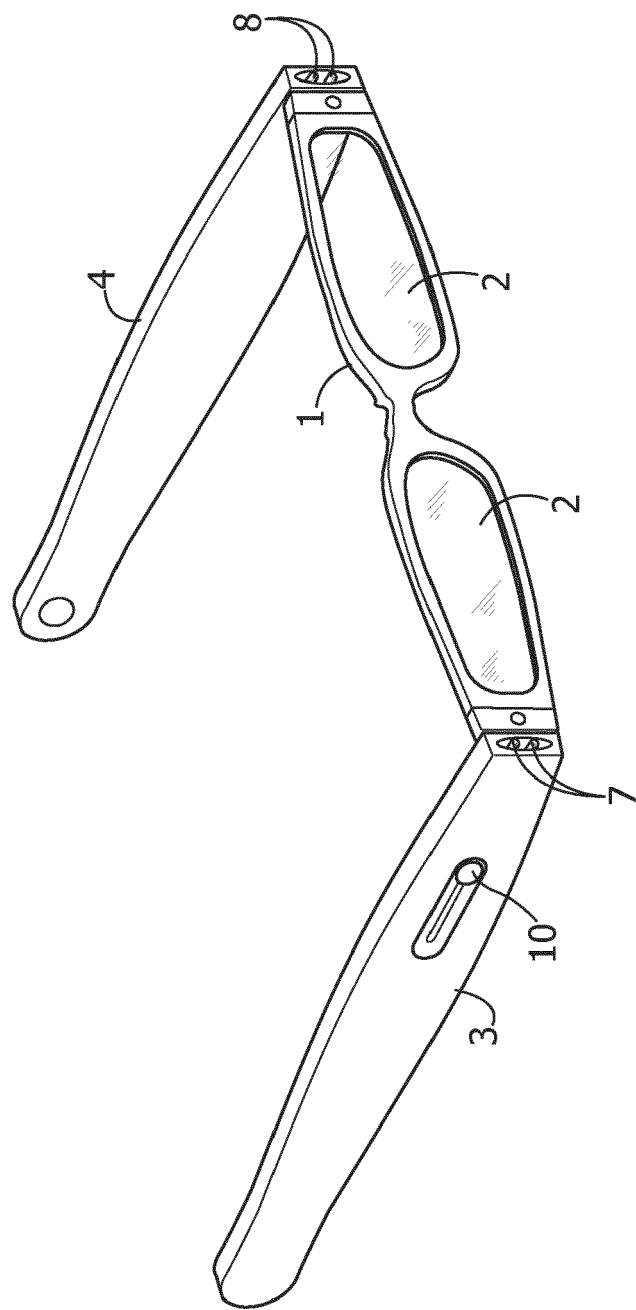
1. Eyeglasses, in particular for reading, comprising a front (1) with a pair of lenses (2), a first arm (3) and a second arm (4) articulated to the sides of the front (1) via respective hinges (5, 6), integrated lighting means (7, 8) for emitting light in front of the eyeglasses, and means for activation and de-activation (9) of the lighting means (7, 8), said eyeglasses being **characterized in that** they further comprise tilt-sensor control means (9A) configured for varying automatically the intensity of the light emitted by said lighting means (7, 8) when, in use, the eyeglasses are moved angularly upwards with respect to a reference angular position.
2. The eyeglasses according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** said control means (9A) are designed to reduce the intensity of the light in a progressive way as far as an angular position of switching-off or of minimum intensity.

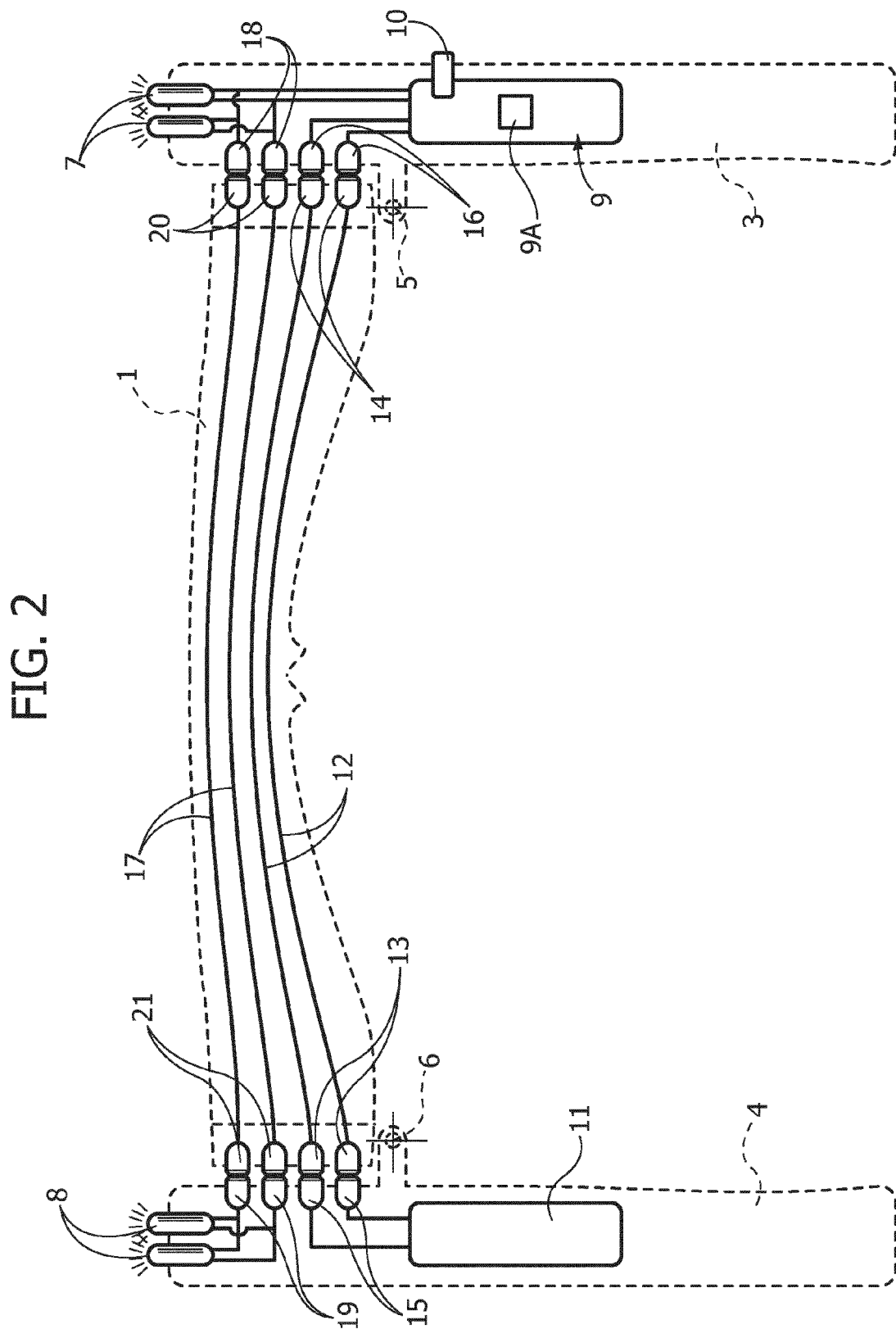
3. The eyeglasses according to Claim 1 or Claim 2,
characterized in that said reference angular position can be set via a manual selector (10).
4. The eyeglasses according to Claim 2 or Claim 3,
characterized in that said angular position of switching-off or of minimum intensity can be set via a manual selector (10).
5. The eyeglasses according to any one of Claims 2 to 4, **characterized in that** the angular range between said reference angular position and said angular position of switching-off or of minimum intensity is substantially in the region of 30° - 40° or more.
6. The eyeglasses according to the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said lighting means comprise a pair of LEDs (7, 8) surfacing from the end where each arm is articulated (3, 4) to the front (1).
7. The eyeglasses according to Claim 6, **characterized in that** the LEDs of each pair (7, 8) are set on top of one another.
8. The eyeglasses according to Claim 6 or Claim 7, **characterized in that** the first arm (3) incorporates said control means (9) with said tilt sensor (9A) and the second arm (4) incorporates a rechargeable supply battery (11), and **in that** for the electrical connection between said battery (11), said control means (9), and said LEDs (7, 8) stationary contacts (13, 14, 20, 21) are provided, arranged at the sides of the front (1) and interconnected by respective conductors (12, 17) incorporated within said front (1), and mobile contacts (15, 16, 18, 19), which are carried by the ends of the arms (3, 4) and co-operate with said stationary contacts (13, 14, 20, 21) in the condition of use of the eyeglasses.
9. The eyeglasses according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** they further comprise a manual selector (10) for manual switching-on/switching-off of said lighting means (7, 8).
10. The eyeglasses according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** they further include a manual selector (10) for regulating the intensity of the light emitted by said lighting means (7, 8).

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FIG. 1







EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 18 7752

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2 196 543 A (ANDERSON WILLIAM O) 9 April 1940 (1940-04-09)	1-5	INV. G02C11/04
Y	* page 1, left-hand column, line 28 - right-hand column, line 25; figures 1-4 *	6-10	
X	US 2 964 613 A (FRANCIS SCHECTER AARON) 13 December 1960 (1960-12-13)	1-5	
Y	* column 2, line 9 - column 8, line 7; figures 1-13 *	6-10	
Y	US 2011/187989 A1 (WATERS MICHAEL [US]) 4 August 2011 (2011-08-04)	6-10	
A	* paragraph [0043] - paragraph [0103]; figures 1-23 *	1-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
A,D	US 2007/013865 A1 (JORDAN LONNIE [US] JORDAN LONNIE LEROY [US]) 18 January 2007 (2007-01-18)	1-10	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 14 March 2012	Examiner Bratfisch, Knut
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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